

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 AGR-05 SAJ-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 191249Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4090

INFO AMCON LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES: DUSHANBE

REF: MOSCOW 6885

1. DUSHANBE'S KOLKOZNIY RYNOK WAS VISITED AT 1300 ON MAY 17 AND 0800 ON MAY 18. WHILE THERE WAS NATURALLY A GREATER SELECTION AND QUANTIFY EARLY IN THE MORNING, THERE WERE ADEQUATE AUANTITIES OF THE ITEMS IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON AS WELL.

2. VEGETABLES. FRESH CUCUMBERS AT 1 RUBLE 50 KOPECKS PER KILO, LETTUCE AT R 2.2 PER KILO, TOMATOES AT R 1.20 PER KILO, GREEN ONIONS AT R 1.20 PER KILO, WHITE ONIONS AT R 2.0 PER KILO, FRESH GARLIC AT 5 AND 10 KOPECKS PER HEAD, CABBAGE AT 22 KOPECKS PER KILO, RADISHES AT R1.20 PER KILO WERE AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE OR PROFUSE QUANTITIES. ALL OF THE ABOVE PRODUCE SEEMED OF FIRST QUALITY. THERE WAS A LING LINE OF POTENTIAL BUYERS ON MAY 17 FOR GOOD QUALITY

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POTATOES AT 22 KOPECKS PER KILO.

NO POTATOES ON TUESDAY.

3. FRUITS. STRAWBERRIES AT 2 RUBLES PER KILO FOR FIRST QUALITY AND 1 RUBLE 65 KOPECKS PER KILO FOR SECOND QUALITY WERE AVAILABLE IN HUGE QUANTITIES AND WERE BEING EAGERLY SNAPPED UP. OTHER FRUITS INCLUDED SLEEPY APPLES AT 1 RUBLE PER KILO, RHUBARB AT 1 RUBLE 50 KOPECKS PER KILO, POMEGRANATES (BAD) AT 1 RUBLE 50 KOPECKS PER KILO, MOROCCAN ORANGES AT 40 KOPECKS EACH. THE LATTER HAD APPARENTLY BEEN BOUGHT BY AN ENTER-PRISING SALESMAN AND WERE BEING RESOLD. NUTS AND DRIED FRUITS OF SEVERAL KINDS WERE AVAILABLE IN OVERWHELMING QUANTITIES.

4. MEAT. ALL OF THE MEAT STALLS WERE EMPTY ON THE 17TH AND ONLY TWO, EACH SELLING ONLY FAST, WERE OCCUPIED ON THE 18TH. A SIGN PROMISED FIRST-QUALITY BEEF AT 3 RUBLES 90 KOPECKS PER KILO AND WE WERE TOLD THAT SOME WOULD BE AVAILABLE LATER IN THE DAY. PLUCKED AND DRESSED CHICKENS APPARENTLY OF GOOD QUALITY COST 10 RUBLES AND 6 RUBLES DEPENDING ON SIZE; ABOUT 15 WERE DISPLAYED.

5. THE GASTRONOME AT 77 PROSPECT LENINA WAS VISITED AT 1500 ON THE 17TH. MACKEREL AND OTHER PRESERVED FISH WERE AVAILABLE AT PRICES FROM 70 KOPECKS TO 1 RUBLE 30 KOPECKS PER KILO. THERE WAS NO FROZEN FISH. THERE SEEMED TO BE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF BUTTER AT 60 KOPECKS FOR 200 GRAMS AND KEFIR BUT THERE WAS NO MILK, YOGHURT OR CHEESE. CARROTS AT 12 KOPECKS PER KILO AND RADISHES AT 23 KOPECKS PER KILO WERE ON SALE BUT OF BAD QUALITY. THERE WERE LONG LINES OF PEOPLE FOR BREAD SUPPLIES, BOTH OF TADZHIK AND EUROPEAN SORTS. BREAD QUANTITY WAS ADEQUATE ALTHOUGH PEOPLE COMMENTED THAT THE QUALITY OF BREAD HAD GONE DOWN IN RECENT MONTHS. IN BAKERIES AND TEAHOUSES THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SIGNS URGING PEOPLE NOT TO WASTE BREAD.

6. ONE TADZHIK FAMILY REPORTED THAT WHILE MEAT HAD BEEN PRACTICALLY UNAVAILABLE FOR THE LAST MONTH OR TWO IN THE STATE STORES, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BUY IT ON THE BLACK MARKET.
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BREMENT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SUPPLIES, VISITS, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW07882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760195-0032
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760537/aaaabfrh.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 6885
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOOD SUPPLIES: DUSHANBE
TAGS: PINT, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006